Forest Practice Committee

August 25th, 2015

Oak Woodlands Management Alternative Prescription 14 CCR 913.6

Alternative Prescription (Rehabilitation of oak woodlands with retention standards for benefit of wildlife habitat, forage, aesthetics and maintenance of unique vegetation type).

Introduction:

- Areas proposed for management pursuant to AP are being encroached upon by native conifers.
- Significant change is species composition.
- Changes soil chemistry.
- Limiting natural production of indigenous oaks.
- Cycle is self-sustain and becoming worse with time due to maturing seed source (DF).

The following information is provided by the RPF for areas where the proposed prescription will be applied pursuant to 14 CCR § 913.6(b):

(b)(1)(A): The RPF's professional judgement of the species composition of the stands before harvest.

- 80% Oregon white oak
- 20% Douglas fir

(b)(1)(B): The RPF's professional judgement of the current stocking on the areas expressed in basal area or a combination of basal area and point count.

- Site III
- There is a estimated range of pre-harvest basal area ranging from 80 – 140 sq. ft./acre.
- An average of 100 sq. ft./acre.

(b)(1)(C): The RPF's estimate of the basal area per acre to be removed from the stand during harvest.

- 20 – 60 sq. ft./acre.

(b)(2): A description of the stand management constraints such as animal, insect, disease, or other natural damage, competing vegetation, harsh site condition, or other problems which may affect stand management.

- Stand health is generally good.
- Insect, disease, etc. not a limiting factor.
- Goal is to manage stand for maintenance and restoration of oak woodland.
- Stocking must be met with Group B species, with all, or nearly all Group A commercial species being proposed for removal.

(b)(3): Which silvicultural method in the Current District rules is most nearly appropriate or feasible? Explain why this is not feasible or appropriate.

- 14 CCR 913.4(e) – Aspen, meadow, and wet area restoration.
- Removal of Group A species to allow for the regeneration of non-coniferous species. Focus on retention, restoration and enhancement of non-conifer dominated stand types for ecological or range values, along with other goals as provide in 14 CCR 897.
- This prescription is not appropriate for the following reasons:
    - No stocking required, the developed prescription has a minimum stocking requirement.
    - Group B species are present on site
    - Group B species are present in sufficient density to meet minimum resource conservation standards.

(b)(4): Explain how the proposed alternative prescription will differ from the most nearly feasible method on terms of securing regeneration, protection of soil, water quality, wildlife habitat and visual appearance; and in terms of fire, insect and disease protection:

- Scarification of soil may promote hardwood regeneration.
- Stand disturbance may produce a “stress crop” of acorns; higher rate of regeneration and mast.
- Soils may slowly revert back to original pH (likely more alkaline) than with inputs from detritus of coniferous needle cast.
- Intact oak woodland stand will be retained.
- Visual appearance will be retained and possibly increased given that the natural character of the stand is being attained.
- Protection of soil, water, will equal that of the most closely related silvicuture.
- Protection from impacts from fire, insect and disease will be similar to that of the most closely related silviculture.

(b)(5): Describe the stand expected after completion of timber operations, including the following:

(b)(5)(A): The management objective under which the post-harvest stand is to be managed (even-aged, unevenaged, or neither):

- On site oaks are unevenaged, therefore unevenaged would likely be the management regime if lumber or forest products are proposed for harvest.
- In the case of oak woodland restoration and maintenance, an Alternative Prescription, most closely related to a special prescription (similar to this proposed prescription) would most likely have to be implemented.

(b)(5)(B): The desired tree species composition of the post-harvest stand and the RPF's judgment as to the remaining stocking after harvest expressed as basal area or a combination of basal area and point count:

- 98% Oregon White Oak
- 2% Douglas Fir (retained wildlife trees, live culls, intricate canopy architecture, etc.)
- 60 – 120 sq. ft./acre basal area shall be present over 80% of the treated area. Minimum stocking within any portion of the treated area shall be 50 sq. ft./acre and shall be met immediately upon completion of harvest with Group B species (Oregon white oak).

(b)(6): The treatment of the stand used in harvesting including:

(b)(6)(A): The guidelines to be used in determining which trees are to be harvest or left.

- All live conifers (Douglas-fir) shall be harvested unless identified for retention for purposes of wildlife retention.
- Wildlife trees shall be identified on at least two sides with an "L", indicating leave. These trees shall be identified in the field by the RPF or supervised designee prior to operations.
- Flagging of boundaries of the area to be treated with the Alternative Prescription shall be flagged by the RPF or supervised designee prior to operations.
- All snags shall be retained where feasible.
- All downed logs shall be retained (see below).

(b)(6)(B): The type of field designation to be followed, such as marking, sample marking of at least 20 percent of the trees to be harvested or left, professional supervision of fallers:

- All conifers to be harvested, unless marked for retention with "L"
- All hardwoods to be retained, unless significantly damaged with catface or other injury that would facilitate spread of disease. No marking necessary.
- Wildlife trees marked with a "L" by RPF or supervised designee across 100% of the area to be treated with the Alternative Prescription.
- All snags to be retained where feasible, no marking necessary.
- All downed logs >20" in diameter on small end shall be retained.

(b)(6)(C): The site preparation and regeneration method and timetable to be used for restocking:

- Site preparation shall be completed commensurate with THP Section II, Item 14.
- 60 – 120 sq. ft./acre basal area shall be present over 80% of the treated area. Minimum stocking within any portion of the treated area shall be 50 sq. ft./acre and shall be met immediately upon completion of harvest with Group B species (Oregon white oak).

(c): Will the alternative have the practical on the ground effect of a clearcut, regardless of the name or description? If yes, then the acreage limitations, and requirements for separation by typical logging unit yarding equipment limitations, exceptions, and stocking requirement for the clearcut regeneration method shall apply.

- No, the proposed Alternative Prescription will not have the practical on the ground effect of a clearcut.

(d): All trees to be harvested or all trees to be retained shall be marked by, or under the supervision of, an RPF prior to harvest. A sample area must be marked prior to the preharvest inspection for evaluation. The sample area shall include at least 10% of the harvest area to a maximum of 20 acres per stand type which is representative of the range of conditions present in the area. The Director may waive the requirements for the remainder of the area when explained and justified by the RPF in the THP.

- A wavier of marking for all harvestable trees is requested. Alternative Prescription entails a harvest based on conifer (Douglas-fir) being harvested vs. hardwood (Oregon white oak) being retained (unless significantly damaged

during operations). Marking of all harvestable trees is unnecessary for proper implementation of this silvicuture.

- Wildlife trees marked with an “L” by RPF or supervised designee across 100% of the area to be treated with the Alternative Prescription.

(e)(3): Would the proposed alternative reduce the after harvest stocking standards or evenaged prescription limitation below the most closely associated standard.

- No, the most closely related silvicultural prescription identified is a special prescription for Aspen, wet meadow and wet area restoration. Stocking is waived in this prescription, yet the proposed prescription is designed to meet the minimum resource conservation stand pursuant of 14 CCR 912.7 with a minimum of 50 sq. ft./acre.